

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 22, 2005. Claims 1, 4 to 6, 153 and 155 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 153 and 155 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 4 to 6, 153 and 155 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,483,261 (Yasutake). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention generally concerns the processing of position information. A plurality of concurrently designated positions is sequentially detected at a plurality of times. Each time the concurrently designated positions are detected, a corresponding one designated position is identified, from among the plurality of designated positions detected at a preceding time, having an area closest to an area of each of the plurality of designated positions detected at a current time. Respective travel paths are recognized for the plurality of the designated positions by recognizing each travel path which connects corresponding designated positions detected at the plurality of times.

A feature of the present invention therefore lies in identifying one designated position detected at a previous time that corresponds to each of a plurality of designated positions detected at a current time, based on areas of the designated positions. By virtue of this feature, in which it is the areas of designated positions by which corresponding designated positions are identified, travel paths can be recognized if two or more designated positions pass through the same position at a certain time.

Independent Claims 1, 153 and 155 are respectively directed to an apparatus, method and computer-readable storage medium.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention. In particular, Yasutake is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature of identifying one designated position detected at a previous time that corresponds to each of a plurality of designated positions detected at a current time, based on areas of the designated positions.

As understood by Applicants, Yasutake is seen to disclose an interactive graphics system including one or more semi-transparent screens with a rear-mounted video camera. The camera is arranged to detect the shadows of objects, such as fingers, touching the screens. See Yasutake, column 2, lines 17 to 21. Control objects corresponding to the touched areas can be represented by spots of varying size and shape. Each control object is reduced to a single set of coordinates representing the centroids of the control objects. These coordinates are compared to the coordinates of existing control objects so as to determine which objects have moved to new locations. See Yasutake Figures 7B and 7C; and column 8, lines 56 to 63.

The Office Action equated the spots of varying size and shape of Yasutake with the areas of the present invention. In addition, the Office Action alleged that Yasutake discloses the claimed feature of identifying one designated position detected at a previous time that corresponds to each of a plurality of designated positions detected at a current time, based on areas of the designated positions. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Although Yasutake may be seen to disclose that its control objects are represented by spots, it is not seen to disclose or suggest that corresponding control objects are identified based on the areas of such spots. Rather, each control object in Yasutake is reduced to a single set of coordinates representing the centroid of the control object. It is the single coordinate value which is used to determine movement of a control object in Yasutake, and not the area of the control object.

Accordingly, Yasutake is not seen to teach or disclose identifying one designated position detected at a previous time that corresponds to each of a plurality of designated positions detected at a current time, based on areas of the designated positions. In addition, Yasutake is not seen to disclose the attendant benefits provided by such identification of corresponding designated positions based on areas.

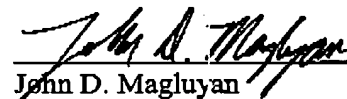
Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1, 153 and 155 are believed to be allowable over the applied reference.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied reference for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


John D. Magluyan
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 56,867

FTZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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